

1. A method for diagnosing spongiform disease or demyelinating disease in vertebrates, including BSE, MS and CJD, which comprises assaying a biological sample for antibodies which bind to myelin and/or neurofilaments or to one or more antigenic (immunogenic) parts thereof.
2. A method according to claim 1, in which the antibodies are IgA antibodies.
3. A method according to claim 1, in which the assay is for antibodies that bind to vertebrate myelin and/or neurofilaments or parts thereof.
4. A method according to claim 3, in which the vertebrate is bovine or human.
5. A method according to claim 4, in which the test antigen is a peptide selected from the group consisting of peptides having sequences identified as Sequence ID Nos. 1 to 8 hereinbefore specified.
6. A method according to any of claims 1, in which a positive result is indicated by levels of antibodies at least about two standard deviations above that of control samples.
7. A method according to any of the preceding claims combined with an assay for antibodies to *Acinetobacter* species.
8. A diagnostic kit for the detection of spongiform disease or demyelinating disease in vertebrates comprising, as test antigen, myelin and/or neurofilaments and/or one or more parts thereof.

9. A diagnostic kit according to claim 8, in which the test antigen is a peptide having a sequence selected from the group consisting of Sequence ID Nos. 1 to 8 specified hereinbefore.

5 10. A diagnostic kit according to claim 8, containing as test antigens myelin, neurofilaments, and *Acinetobacter calcoaceticus*.

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